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ABSTRACT

Data from the 1981 Census of Canada were used to gain an overview of the demographic and social characteristics of the aboriginal populations in Alberta and to compare the situations of aboriginal and non-aboriginal peoples with regard to age and geographical distribution, educational attainment, labor force activity, and income. Census figures showed Alberta's Native population to be young and fast growing. In 1981, 42% of Alberta's Natives were under the age of 15 compared to 24% of non-Natives, and the Native population was increasing at 3 times the rate for the Canadian general public. Over 40% of the total Native population resided in Alberta's major urban centers. Non-Natives were significantly better educated than Natives even though Natives are achieving higher levels of education over time. The labor force participation rate for Native persons was 51.8% compared to 71.7% for all Albertans. Unemployment rates for rural Natives were nearly four times higher than those of rural non-Natives. The average income for Native private households was $20,555 compared with $28,186 for non-Native households. Rural Natives tended to have lower incomes than did urban Natives. Significantly, 27% of rural Natives reported no income compared with less than 16% among urban dwellers. (JHZ)

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BACKGROUND PAPER NO. 1

A DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW OF THE NATIVE POPULATIONS IN ALBERTA

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Alberta
NATIVE AFFAIRS

BACKGROUND PAPER NO. 1

A DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW OF THE NATIVE POPULATIONS IN ALBERTA

Policy & Planning Branch
Native Affairs Secretariat
July, 1985

PREFACE

"A Demographic Overview of the Native Populations in Alberta" is the first in a series of background papers which will be made available by the Native Affairs Secretariat. These papers are intended to provide useful background information to the reader with an interest in aboriginal matters.

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the demographic and social characteristics of the aboriginal populations in Alberta. The paper seeks to compare the situations of aboriginal and non-aboriginal peoples along a variety of dimensions including age and geographic distribution, education, labour force activity and income. In certain instances, regional comparisons are provided as well.

An earlier version of this paper was prepared in cooperation with the Alberta Manpower Planning Secretariat in March of 1984. The contributions of the Secretariat's staff, and in particular Dr. Bill Wong and Ms. Carol Johnston, are hereby acknowledged with gratitude.

Although the majority of the information included in the paper is derived from the 1981 Census of Canada data which became available in late 1983 and early 1984, the Alberta Native Affairs Secretariat accepts responsibility for the data selected and for any errors or omissions which may have occurred. We would welcome any comments from the reader.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Statistics in this report illustrate a number of important demographic trends that help describe a socio-economic profile of Alberta's Native population. Highlights of this profile include:

- Alberta's Native population is fast growing. It is increasing at a rate three times that of the Canadian general public.

- It is young. Forty-two percent of Alberta Natives were under the age of 15 in 1981 compared to 24 percent for the non-Native population.

- Alberta's Native population is becoming increasingly urban. Over 40 percent of the total Native population resides in Alberta's major urban centres. Nearly 60% of the Metis and non-status Indian population live in cities.

- Within the urban communities, Natives demonstrate a much higher degree of permanency than previously considered. Sixty-two percent of the Native population in Edmonton had resided in the City in 1981, for five years or more. In comparison, 70 percent of the non-Native population responded that they had resided in the City five years or more.

  The statistics did reveal however that within the urban setting, Natives did demonstrate considerable mobility.

- Most Natives in Edmonton reported their birthplace as within Alberta contrasted to 50 percent of the non-Native populations that reported being born outside of the province.

- According to the 1981 Census, non-Natives were significantly better educated than Natives. However, Natives are achieving higher levels of educational attainment over time.

- Only one quarter of Natives under 65 years of age were employed in June, 1981.

- Unemployment rates for rural Natives were nearly four times higher than those of rural non-Natives.

- Urban Natives are in better financial health than rural Natives. No income was reported by 27 percent of rural Natives as opposed to 16 percent for urban Natives.

- Forty-one percent of all Native people 15 years and over reported either no income or government transfer payments as their major source of income in 1981.

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I. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The historic population counts of the various Native subgroups (Status Indians, Non-Status Indians, Inuit, Metis) for Canada and the current counts for Alberta and other provinces are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

As displayed in Table 1, these subgroups have increased at varying rates since 1941, the last Census in which Metis were identified. The Inuit population increased by 252%, the Status and Non-Status Indian population by 210% and the Metis by 177%. Despite several waves of immigration the total Canadian population grew by only 109% in the same period since World War II.

Table 2 and Figure 1 show the distribution of Native persons in Alberta by status. These data derived from the 1981 Census indicates that the total Native population in Alberta was 72,050. Of that total, 510 individuals identified themselves as Inuit, 35,810 as Status Indian, 8,595 as Non-Status Indian and 27,135 as Metis.

The Native population is distributed unevenly throughout Alberta (see Table 3 and Reference Map 1). While nearly two-thirds of the Native population reside in the southern half of the Province, Native people represent a much higher proportion of the total population in the northern half of the province, particularly in Census Divisions 12 and 15. It is important to note, however, that over 40% of the total Native population resides in or around the urban centres of Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Red Deer, Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray. When the Metis and Non-Status Indian populations are considered alone, this figure increases to 51%. Figure 2 shows the proportionate distribution of Native and Non-Native populations in northern, urban and smaller urban and rural areas.

The 1981 Census data on Native populations was obtained from the ethnicity questions directed to a 20 percent sample of private households. The questions provided for multiple responses which may have resulted in some confusion and misinterpretation particularly among Metis respondents. In addition, some distortion may have resulted from sampling and weighing techniques, especially in smaller communities. Nevertheless, while the total population counts may be under reported, the trends which are displayed in the data should not be affected. A copy of the ethnicity question is provided as Appendix I.

Tables 4 and 5 show the size and population of Indian Reserves and Metis Settlements in the province. It should be noted that the Band population figures in Table 4 include members of the Bands residing off-Reserve.

Population projections prepared by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs indicate that approximately 22% of the registered Indian population in Alberta resided off-Reserve in 1977. This figure is expected to rise to 32% by the year 1991 (see Table 6 and Figure 3).

As Figure 4 and Table 7 illustrates, the age compositions of the Native and non-Native populations in Alberta differ significantly. Forty-two percent of the Native population was under the age of 15 in 1981, compared with 24 percent of the non-Native population.

A comparison of the urban and rural Native populations (Table 8), shows some minor differences in age composition, with a higher proportion of urban Natives in the 20-34 age group. This might be explained in part by the increasing number of further educational and employment opportunities which became available in the cities throughout the 1970's at the time this group reached working age. It should be noted that the proportion of urban Natives under 15 years of age remains significantly higher than that of the non-Native population.

As Figure 5 illustrates, 62% of the Native population in the City of Edmonton had resided in the City for five or more years in 1981. A much smaller proportion, 16% had resided in the same dwelling. By comparison, approximately 70% of non-Natives in Edmonton had resided in the City for five or more years. A Gallup poll conducted for Alberta Education in May of 1984 estimates that now over 85% of all Edmontonians have lived in the City for five or more years. The data suggests that, contrary to "conventional wisdom", the urban Native population exhibits considerable permanency. On the other hand, Native people appear to be highly mobile within the City. A more detailed analysis of Edmonton's native population is currently being undertaken which will, in part, shed more light on these two phenomena and the policy implications which they may entail.

It is interesting to note as well that 31% of the Native population in Edmonton reported their place of birth as being outside Alberta in 1981 (Figure 6). Approximately 50% of Edmonton's non-Native population was born outside Alberta.

Table 1

NATIVE PEOPLES, CANADA, 1931 - 1981

CENSUS YEAR	TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL NATIVE PEOPLE	INUIT (ESKIMO)	NATIVE INDIAN			METIS (MIXED NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE ANCESTRY)
				TOTAL	STATUS INDIAN	NON-STATUS INDIAN	
1931	10 376 786	128 890 (1)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1941	11 506 655	160 937 (2)	7 205n	118 316	N.A.	N.A.	35 416
1951	14 009 429	165 607 (3)	9 733	155 874	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1961	18 238 247	220 121 (3)	11 835	208 286	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1971	21 568 311	312 765 (4)	17 550	295 215	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1981 (6)	24 083 496	491 460 (5)	25 390	367 810	292 700	75 110	98 260

(1) INCLUDES NATIVE INDIAN, INUIT AND PERSONS OF MIXED NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE ANCESTRY TRACED ON THE MOTHER'S SIDE.

(2) INCLUDES NATIVE INDIAN, INUIT AND PERSONS OF MIXED NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE ANCESTRY TRACED ON THE FATHER'S SIDE.

(3) INCLUDES NATIVE INDIAN, INUIT AND SOME PERSONS OF MIXED NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE ANCESTRY LIVING ON INDIAN RESERVES OR TRACED ON THE FATHER'S SIDE.

(4) INCLUDES NATIVE INDIAN AND INUIT ONLY, TRACED ON THE FATHER'S SIDE.

(5) INCLUDES NATIVE INDIAN, INUIT AND SELF-REPORTED METIS, TRACED THROUGH BOTH PARENTS.

(6) EXCLUDES INMATES.

N.A. NOT AVAILABLE OR NOT PUBLISHED.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census.

Table 2

NATIVE PEOPLES BY TYPE, CANADA AND PROVINCES/TERRITORIES, 1981

AREA	TOTAL (1) POPULATION	TOTAL NATIVE POPULATION	INUIT	STATUS INDIAN	NON-STATUS INDIAN	METIS
CANADA	24 083 496	491 460	25 390	292 700	75 110	98 260
NEWFOUNDLAND	563 747	4 430	1 850	1 010	1 185	385
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	121 223	625	30	400	140	50
NOVA SCOTIA	839 801	7 795	130	5 905	1 155	605
NEW BRUNSWICK	689 373	5 515	5	4 235	865	415
QUEBEC	6 369 068	52 395	4 875	34 400	5 810	7 310
ONTARIO	8 534 263	110 060	1 095	70 190	26 090	12 600
MANITOBA	1 013 703	66 280	230	39 710	5 855	20 485
SASKATCHEWAN	956 441	59 200	145	37 470	4 135	17 455
ALBERTA	2 213 651	72 050	510	35 810	8 595	27 135
BRITISH COLUMBIA	2 713 615	82 645	515	54 085	19 085	8 955
YUKON	23 074	4 045	95	2 770	990	190
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	45 537	26 430	15 910	6 720	1 205	2 595

(1) EXCLUDES INMATES.
Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census.

Figure 1

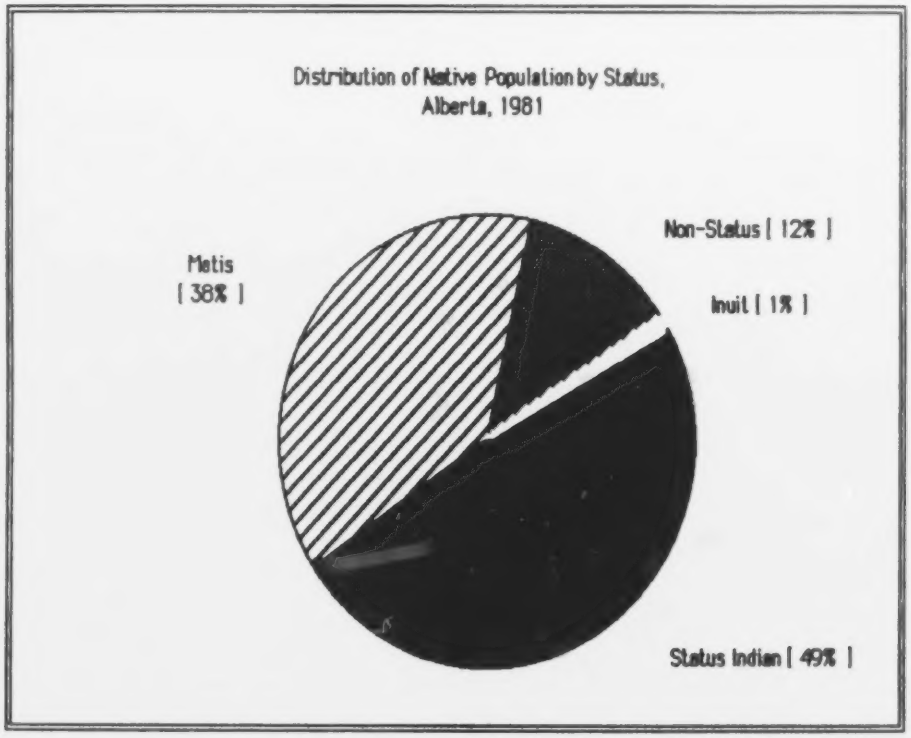

Figure 2

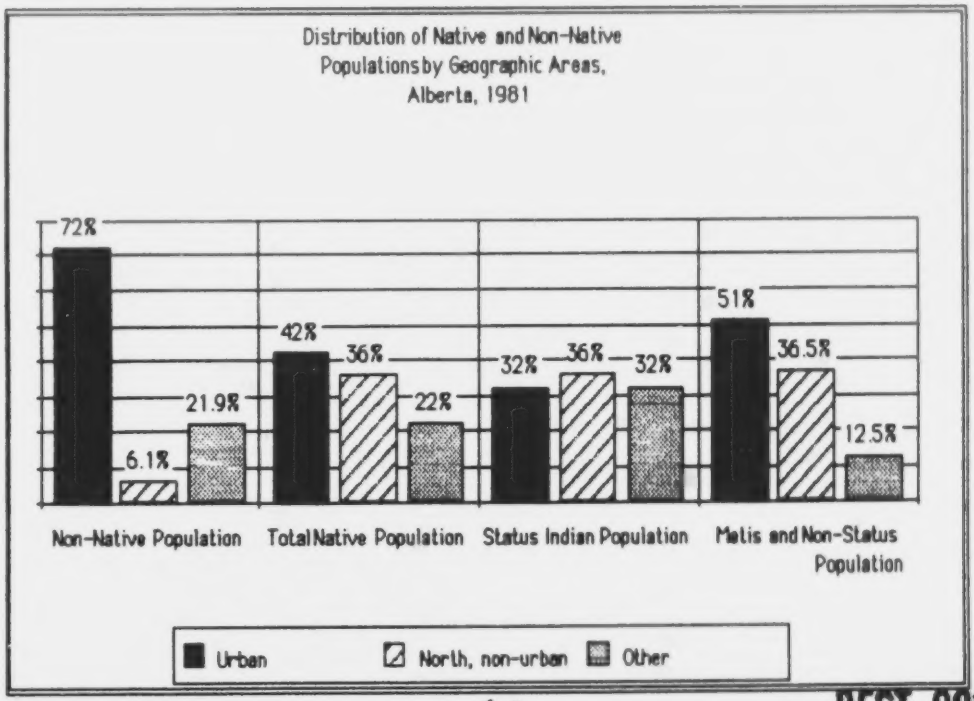

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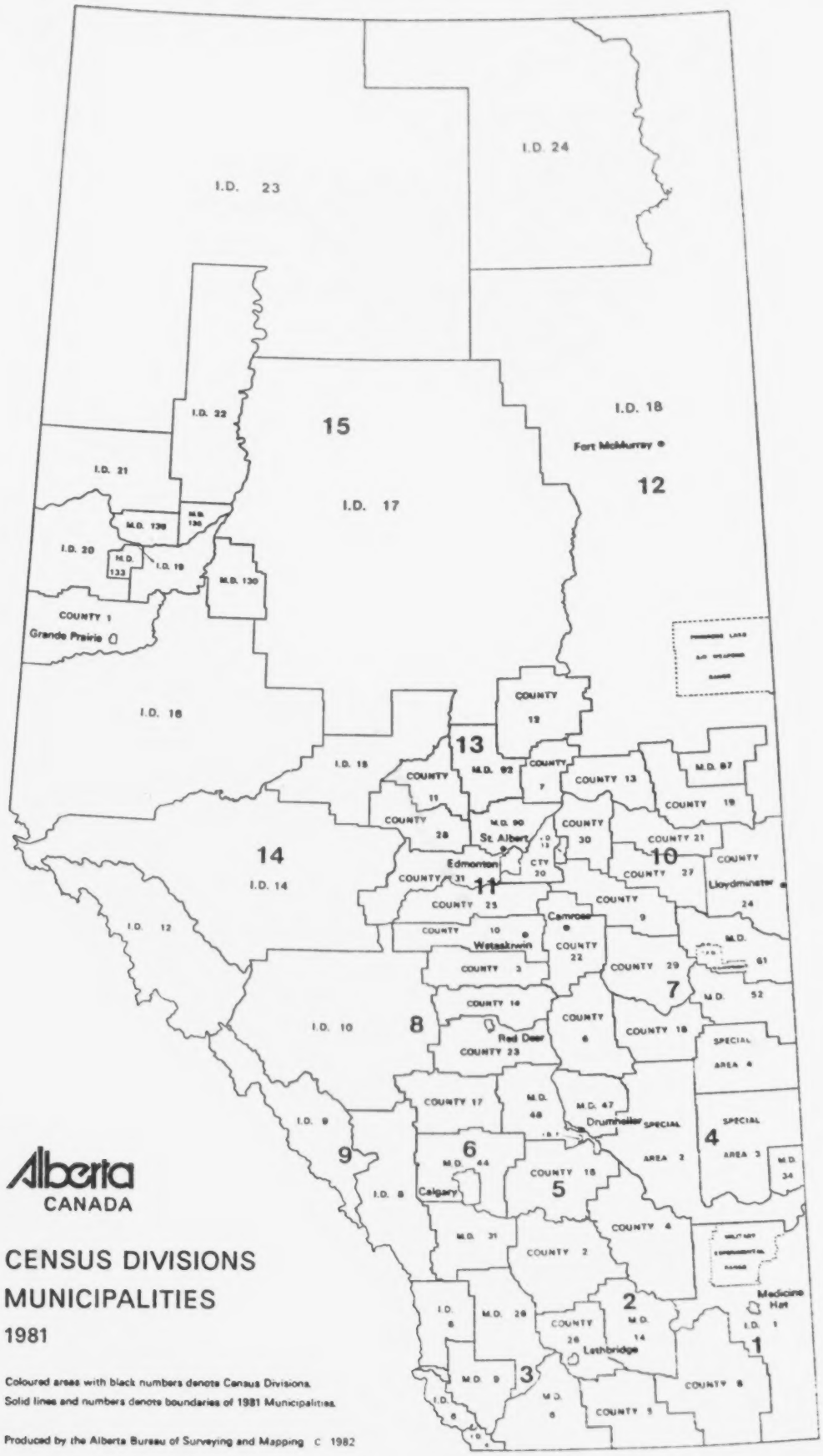
Table 3

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF NATIVE POPULATION BY CENSUS DIVISION
ALBERTA, 1981

CENSUS DIVISION	TOTAL POPULATION (Alberta)	NATIVE POPULATION	NATIVES AS A % OF TOTAL POPULATION	NATIVES AS A % OF TOTAL NATIVE POPULATION
1	55,375	430	0.8%	0.6%
2	110,477	1,575	1.4%	2.2%
3	35,652	4,480	12.6%	6.2%
4	12,119	85	0.7%	0.1%
5	38,382	2,170	0.6%	3.0%
6	668,662	8,970	1.3%	12.5%
7	40,071	200	0.5%	0.3%
8	123,642	4,240	3.4%	5.9%
9	21,670	275	1.3%	0.4%
10	78,417	1,055	1.3%	1.5%
11	762,041	17,570	2.3%	24.4%
12	84,221	11,985	14.2%	16.6%
13	53,701	1,835	3.4%	2.5%
14	24,635	785	3.2%	1.1%
15	128,639	16,400	12.7%	22.7%
TOTAL	2,237,724	72,055	3.2%	100.0%

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA, 1981 CENSUS



Alberta
CANADA

CENSUS DIVISIONS
MUNICIPALITIES
1981

Coloured areas with black numbers denote Census Divisions.
Solid lines and numbers denote boundaries of 1981 Municipalities.

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Table 4

NUMBER OF RESERVES, LAND AREA AND BAND POPULATION
BY BAND, ALBERTA, 1983

BAND	NUMBER OF RESERVES (a)	ACREAGE (a)	POPULATION (b)
Blood	2	354,667.0	6,039
Blackfoot	1	175,406.0	3,107
Stoney	4	120,154.0	3,416
Peigan	2	112,656.0	1,919
Saddle Lake	2	74,949.5	4,031
Dene Tha	7	74,224.0	1,309
Sarcee	1	67,399.0	708
Little Red River	2	60,471.0	1,494
Ft. Chipewyan	8	52,398.7	315
Bigstone	6	52,276.0	2,013
Frog Lake	2	46,618.4	900
Cold Lake	3	46,193.0	1,045
O'Chiese	2	34,280.2	367
Samson	2	34,007.2	2,876
Ermineskin	1	25,441.0	1,480
Sturgeon Lake	3	22,359.6	838
Kehewin	1	20,261.0	859
Paul	3	18,112.0	886
Alexander	1	17,990.0	716
Boyer River	2	17,483.0	336
Driftpile	1	15,688.0	754
Alexis	1	15,259.0	730
Beaver Lake	1	15,185.0	305
Sucker Creek	1	14,794.0	672
Fort McKay	3	13,465.0	226
Enoch	1	12,933.5	846
Sunchild	1	12,894.0	466
Whitefish Lake	3	11,966.2	666
Heart Lake	1	11,110.0	106
Swan River	2	10,670.0	267
Tall Cree	3	9,206.0	364
Louis Bull	1	8,345.5	744
Ft. McMurray	4	7,965.0	140
Horse Lake	2	7,658.0	177
Montana	1	6,980.0	439
Duncan's	2	5,995.0	58
Sawridge	2	5,296.0	42
Janvier	1	4,034.0	265
Grouard	3	1,089.0	-
Lubicon Lake	-	-	174
Cree	-	-	1,030
Two or more Bands	1	4,750.0	-
TOTAL	90	1,622,630.0	42,377

SOURCES: (a) Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Program Statistics Division, 1977.

(b) Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Reserves and Trusts, Alberta Region, December, 1983.

Table 5

ALBERTA METIS SETTLEMENTS, LAND AREA AND POPULATION, 1983

SETTLEMENT	ACREAGE (Acres)	POPULATION
Kikino	115,200	671
Caslan	92,160	655
Paddle Prairie	414,720	644
Gift Lake	207,360	482
Elizabeth	69,120	416
East Prairie	80,640	336
Fishing Lake	97,920	325
Big Prairie	207,360	294
TOTAL	1,284,480	3,823

SOURCE: February, 1984 Alberta Municipal Affairs, Metis Development Branch, (unpublished).

Table 6

TREATY INDIAN POPULATION, ALBERTA, 1977 - 1991

	ON-RESERVE	OFF-RESERVE	TOTAL
1977	27,773	7,785	35,558
1978	28,203	8,168	36,371
1979	28,632	8,579	37,211
1980	29,043	9,028	38,071
1981	29,462	9,487	38,949
1982	29,882	9,966	39,848
1983	30,284	10,481	40,765
1984	30,688	11,001	41,689
1985	31,061	11,566	42,627
1986	31,432	12,142	43,574
1987	31,792	12,736	44,528
1988	32,131	13,357	45,488
1989	32,455	13,998	46,453
1990	32,762	14,658	47,420
1991	33,052	15,335	48,387

SOURCE: Background Monograph Series, Economic and Employment Development Task Force - 1979, Indian and Inuit Affairs.

Figure 3

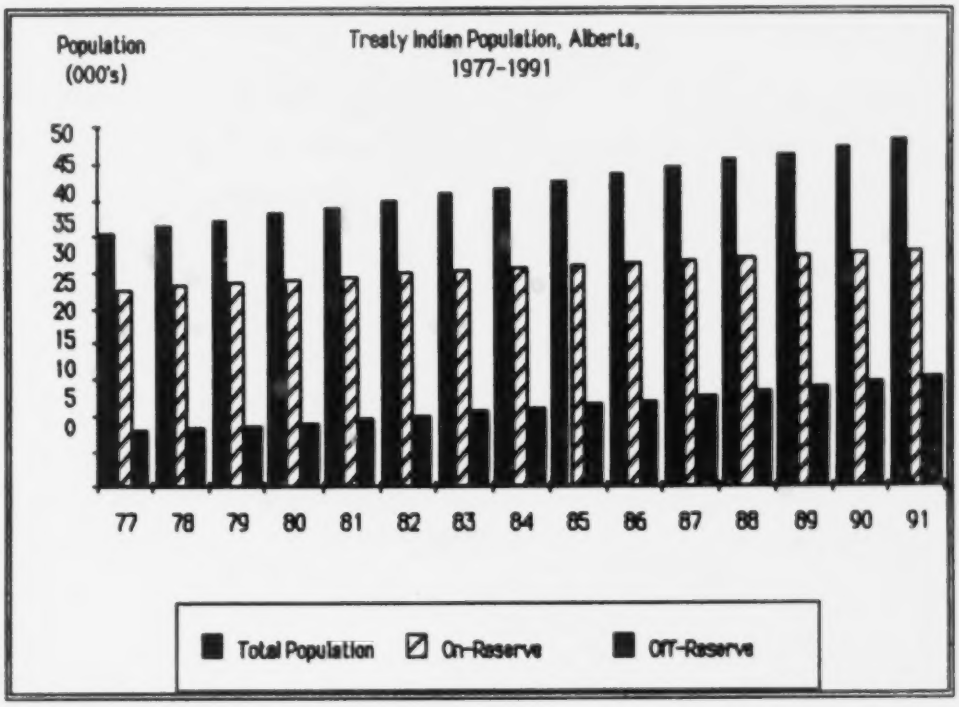

Figure 4

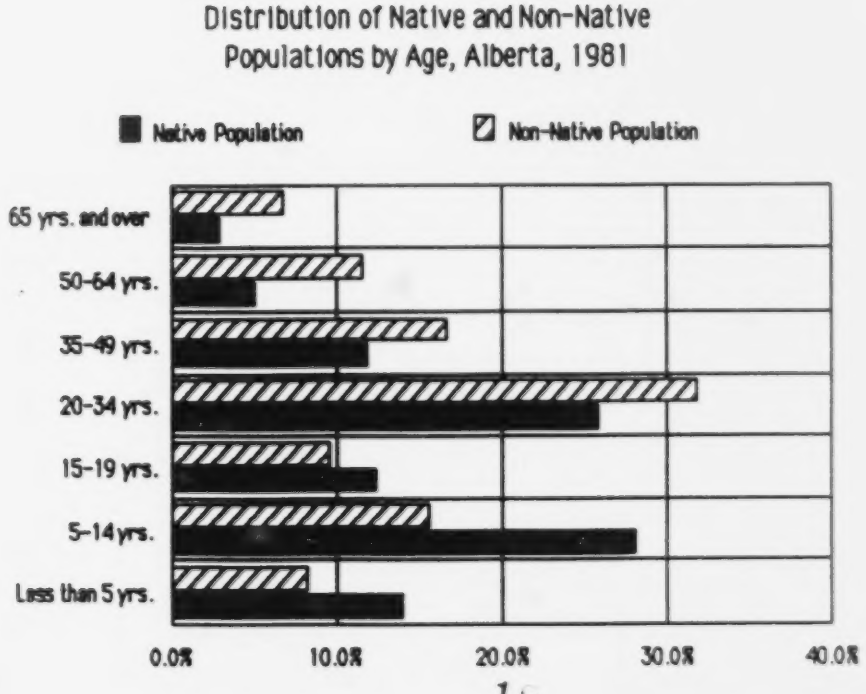

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Table 7

DISTRIBUTION OF NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE POPULATION
BY AGE, ALBERTA, 1981

AGE	NON NATIVE POPULATION NUMBER	%	NATIVE POPULATION NUMBER	%
Less than 5 yrs.	177,880	8.3%	10,110	14.0%
5 - 14 yrs.	332,905	15.5%	20,140	28.0%
5 - 19 yrs.	204,415	9.5%	8,950	12.4%
20 - 34 yrs.	679,205	31.8%	18,575	25.8%
35 - 49	355,150	16.6%	8,475	11.8%
50 - 64	247,565	11.6%	3,675	5.1%
65 and over	144,485	6.7%	2,115	2.9%
TOTAL	2,141,600	100.0%	72,050	100.0%

Source: Statistics Canada. 1981 Census

Table 8

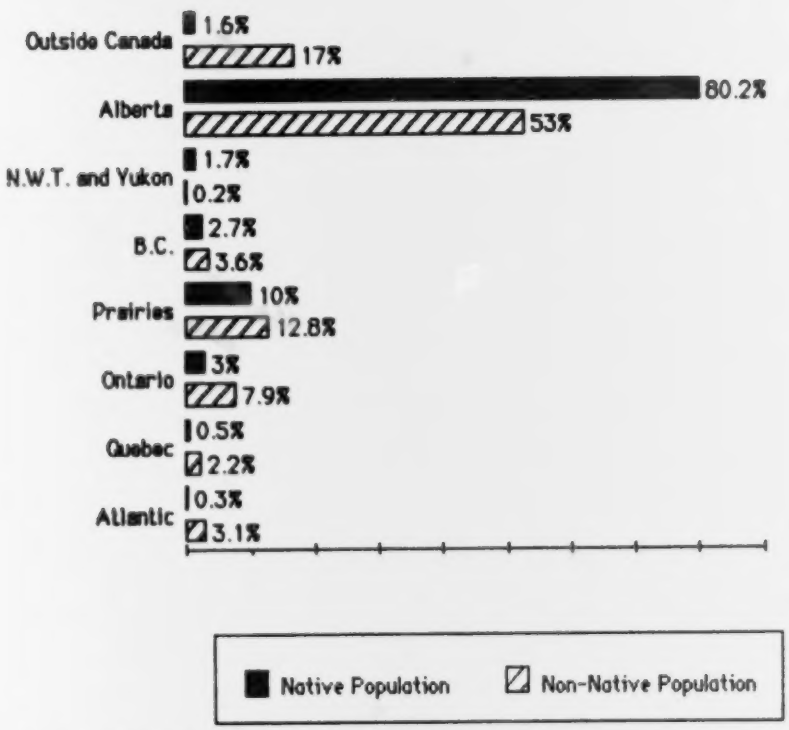
DISTRIBUTION OF NATIVE PERSONS BY AGE IN SELECTED CENSUS DIVISION, ALBERTA, 1981

	CALGARY		EDMONTON		CD 12 (NORTHEAST)		CD 15 (NORTHWEST)		CD 3 (SOUTHWEST)	
Age	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than 5 years	905	12.4	1505	12.5	1780	14.9	2260	13.8	545	12.2
5 - 14	1710	23.4	3170	26.4	3410	28.5	4900	29.9	1240	27.7
15 - 19	835	11.4	1310	10.9	1585	13.2	2155	13.1	690	15.4
20 - 34	2620	35.8	3635	30.3	2605	21.7	3585	21.9	1045	23.3
35 - 49	910	12.4	1505	12.5	1345	11.2	1960	12.0	575	12.8
50 - 64	265	3.6	675	5.6	735	6.1	900	5.5	245	5.5
Over 65	75	1.0	220	1.8	525	4.4	630	3.8	140	3.1
TOTAL	7320	100.0	12020	100.0	11985	100.0	16395	100.0	4480	100.0

SOURCE; Statistics Canada, 1981 Census.

Figure 5

Native and Non-Native Populations by Place of Birth, Alberta, 1981



Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census.

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Figure 6

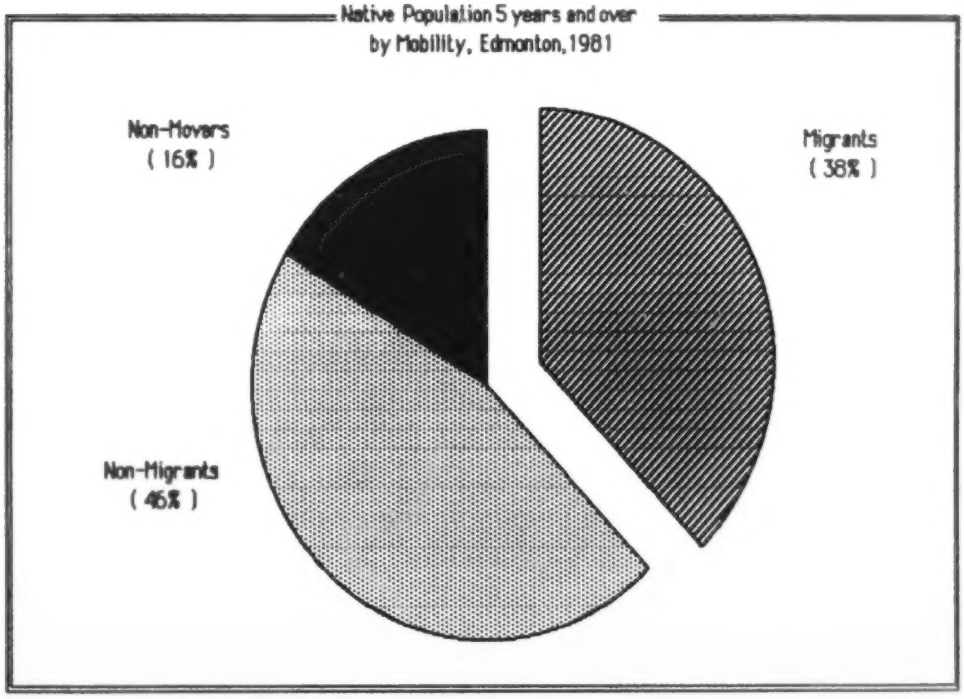
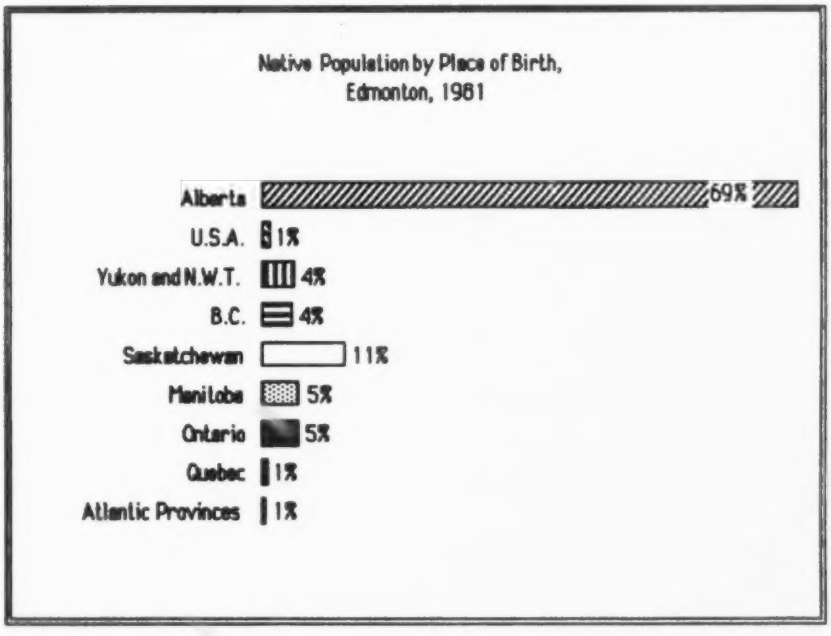


Figure 7



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II. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Data on the levels of educational attainment of Native persons 15 years and over are presented in Figure 7 and Table 9, 10 and 11. As Figure 7 and Table 9 indicates, on average the highest level of education attained by Native persons in each subgroup (i.e. Inuit, Status Indian, Non-Status Indian and Metis) was significantly lower than non-Natives, according to the 1981 Census. For example, while approximately 12% of Alberta's non-Native population had not continued their schooling beyond Grade 8, over 35% of the Native population had less than a Grade 8 education. At the other extreme, 11% of the non-Native population were university graduates compared with only 2% of the Native population.

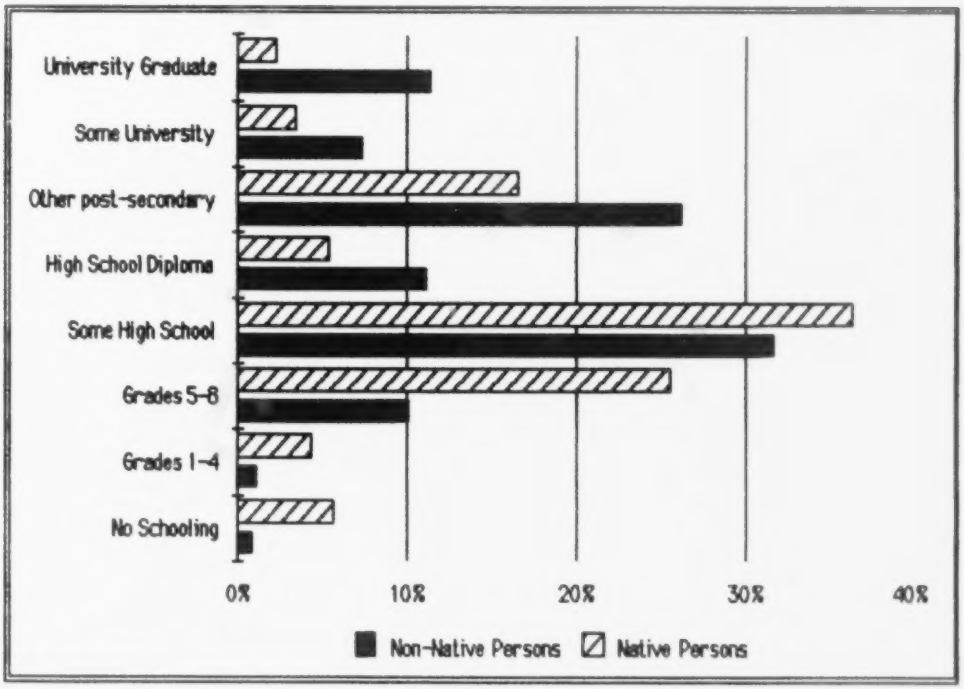
Table 10 compares the level of educational attainment of Natives and non-Natives residing in urban and rural settings. As might be expected, rural Natives show a lower level of education than urban Natives. For example, while approximately 14% of Calgary's Native population had less than Grade 8 education, over 50% of the Native population in rural northwestern Alberta (Census Division 15) had not continued their schooling beyond Grade 8. As well, the disparities between Native and non-Native people are more pronounced among rural residents. Rural Natives had nearly five times the proportion of persons with less than Grade 5 than did rural non-Natives. Urban Natives had approximately two times the proportion of persons in the same category as did urban non-Natives.

Table 11 shows differences among age groups for the three prairie provinces. Young Natives had higher levels of education than did other age groups. For example, the proportion of Native persons aged 15-29 which had less than Grade 8 education was significantly lower than for the older age groups. In other words, the numbers of Native persons who have received some education at the high school level and beyond has increased over time.

Of particular note, given the divided jurisdiction for education, are the variations in levels of educational attainment among the Native subgroups. Consistently, Status Indians show a higher proportion of persons in the lowest levels of educational attainment than the other Native groups. Over 40% of Status Indians had less than Grade 8 education compared with 31% of the Metis and Non-Status population and 18% among the Inuit.

Figure 8

Highest Level of Educational Attainment,
Native and Non-Native Persons, Alberta, 1981



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1981

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Table 9

DISTRIBUTION OF NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE PERSONS 15 YEARS AND OVER
BY HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ALBERTA, 1981
(IN PERCENTAGES)

	NON-NATIVE	ALL NATIVE	INUIT	STATUS INDIAN	NON-STATUS AND METIS
No Schooling	.90	5.63	3.33	6.81	4.54
Grades 1 - 4	1.16	4.34	3.33	4.14	4.52
Grades 5 - 8	10.06	25.70	11.67	29.46	22.32
Some high school	31.73	36.53	36.67	34.30	38.63
High school Diploma	11.19	5.42	16.67	4.28	6.35
Other non-university trades, certificates, etc.	26.21	16.62	18.33	15.46	17.73
Some university	7.34	3.50	5.00	3.82	3.18
University grad.	11.41	2.26	3.33	1.73	2.73

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census.

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 due to rounding

Table 10

DISTRIBUTION OF NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE PERSONS 15 YEARS AND OVER BY HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN SELECTED CENSUS DIVISIONS, ALBERTA, 1981
(IN PERCENTAGES)

	CALGARY		EDMONTON		CD 12 (NORTHEAST)		CD 15 (NORTHWEST)		CD 3 (SOUTHWEST)	
LEVEL OF SCHOOLING	NON-NATIVE	NATIVE	NON-NATIVE	NATIVE	NON-NATIVE	NATIVE	NON-NATIVE	NATIVE	NON-NATIVE	NATIVE
No schooling	0.7	0.9	1.2	2.2	1.8	9.1	1.3	10.0	0.8	5.7
Grade 1 - 4	0.7	1.3	1.4	3.5	2.1	5.4	1.8	7.0	0.9	2.8
Grades 5 - 8	6.5	12.2	8.7	19.6	12.1	27.9	14.9	33.8	13.3	26.5
Grade 9 - 12	28.7	38.4	28.5	38.3	32.5	35.5	35.7	32.9	35.5	42.8
High School Diploma	11.0	8.6	11.6	7.9	11.0	3.4	11.0	2.6	10.5	5.2
Other non-university diploma	27.7	27.0	26.7	20.1	26.6	14.8	23.5	11.5	23.5	10.7
Some university	9.9	5.3	8.2	4.6	5.2	2.8	4.5	1.6	6.9	5.0
University grad.	15.1	5.9	13.5	3.8	8.6	0.8	7.3	0.7	8.8	0.9

NOTE: Columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census.

TABLE 11

Distribution of Native and Non-Native Persons by Highest Level of Educational Attainment, Type of Native and Age Group, Prairie Region, 1981
(in percentages)

Highest Level of Education	Status	Non-Status	Metis	Non-Native
Age 15-29				
Less than grade 5	2.56	2.43	2.31	0.48
Grade 5-8	35.17	22.01	23.51	4.01
Grade 9-12 without certificate	42.67	43.71	47.36	34.91
Grade 9-12 with certificate	4.08	7.30	7.53	18.22
Trade certificate or diploma	1.14	2.33	1.47	2.00
Other non-university without certificate	4.95	7.10	5.65	7.15
Other non-university with certificate	5.22	8.72	7.59	16.10
University without degree	3.53	3.96	3.34	9.05
University with degree	0.68	2.43	1.24	8.08
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Age 30-64				
Less than grade 5	23.36	18.88	18.47	1.93
Grade 5-8	37.52	25.94	35.36	15.57
Grade 9-12 without certificate	17.25	22.64	22.60	29.05
Grade 9-12 with certificate	1.27	3.64	2.36	7.48
Trade certificate or diploma	1.88	3.30	2.55	3.58
Other non-university without certificate	4.17	4.89	4.78	5.56
Other non-university with certificate	7.94	11.26	8.62	17.82
University without degree	5.03	4.44	3.48	8.48
University with degree	1.58	5.01	1.78	10.53
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 11 (Cont'd)

Highest Level of Education	Status	Non-Status	Metis	Non-Native
Age 65 and over				
Less than grade 5	66.75	57.14	56.16	14.65
Grade 5-8	25.2	30.58	30.45	38.13
Grade 9-12 without certificate	5.94	4.77	8.42	23.03
Grade 9-12 with certificate	0.26	1.90	0.86	3.95
Trade certificate or diploma	0.13	1.90	0.65	2.58
Other non-university without certificate	0.53	--	0.86	4.04
Other non-university with certificate	0.66	1.90	1.73	6.79
University without degree	0.40	--	0.65	4.21
University with degree	0.13	1.90	0.22	2.61
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canada Census, 1981.

III. LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY

According to the 1981 Census, 41,805 Native persons were of working age (i.e. 15 years of age or older). Of those in the labour force group, 21,670 were employed or looking for work. This means that the labour force participation rate for Native persons was 51.8% compared to 71.7% for all Albertans (Table 12 and Table 8).

In June 1981, there were 2,480 Native people unemployed resulting in an unemployment rate of 11.4%. The unemployment rate for all Alberta was 3.7%. Unemployment rates combined with low participation rates resulted in the employment of 45.6% of those Native people who are of working age compared with 69.1% of all Albertans.

The high proportion of Natives under 15 years of age mask further employment-related problems. Only one quarter of all Natives under 65 years of age were employed in June 1981 compared to more than half of the total Alberta population. This means that twice as many people under 65 are supported by each employed Native, than is the case in the general Alberta population.

The differences between Alberta's Native and non-Native population are most pronounced among women. The participation rate for Native women in 1981 was 39.6% compared with 58.7% for the non-Native women (Figure 9).

When comparing the labour force experiences of the major Native sub-groups (i.e. Inuit, Status Indians, Non-status Indians, and Metis), it should be noted that the participation rate is lowest among the Status Indians (45%) and highest for the Non-status Indians (64.1%). The unemployment rate was similar for three groups ranging from 11.4% for the Metis to 11.6% for Status Indians and 11.8% for Non-status Indians. The Inuit, with a total working age population of only 300 experienced an unemployment rate of 2.6%.

The Canadian Labour Force Survey for the month of August 1984, reported an unemployment rate of 11% for Alberta as a whole, with regional variations ranging from 7.7% in southeastern Alberta to 14.5% in Metropolitan Edmonton. The 15 - 19 year old age group recorded an unemployment rate of 16%. Eighteen percent of males in that age group were unemployed in August. While the Labour Force Survey does not report ethnicity, given the age structure of the Native population and the lower levels of educational attainment among Natives, it is very likely that the current economic recession is having its most profound effect on Native people in general and on young males in particular.

Tne pattern of Native labour force involvement differs between rural and urban settings (Table 13). Native participation rates in the three sample rural census divisions are on average 8.5 percentage points lower than for the total Native population in Alberta. In Calgary and Edmonton the Native labour force participation rates were approximately 19 and 11 points higher respectively than the total Alberta Native labour force rates.

Unemployment rates among rural Natives were nearly four times higher than those for rural non-Natives. In Edmonton and Calgary the Native unemployment rates were about 2.5 times higher than non-Natives.

Table 14 indicates the occupations of Natives persons and all Albertans who worked at least one week in 1980 or the first five months of 1981. Native persons comprised 2.6% of the total population aged 15 - 64 years, but accounted for only 2% of those who worked at all during that period.

Compared to their 2% share of all those employed, Natives made up a much smaller share of several occupational categories: Natural Sciences, Engineering and Mathematics (0.8%), Managerial or Administrative (0.9%), Medicine and Health (1%), Teaching and Related (1.1%), Sales (1.1%), and Clerical (1.4%). On the other hand, Natives are well represented in several other occupational categories: Social Sciences (3.5%), Service (3.4%), Oil and Gas Field (3.4%), Construction Trades (3.4%) and Materials Handling (2.8%).

Native people are disproportionately represented in Fishing and Trapping occupations (41.2%) and Forestry and Logging occupations (25.8%). With respect to fishing and trapping, it is interesting to note that while 41% of those employed in these activities were of Native ancestry, they accounted for only .5% of the total employed Native population.

TABLE 12

NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY, ALBERTA, 1981

	Population 15 Years & Over	Employed	Unemployed	Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate
ALBERTA					
Both	1,672,620	1,155,650	44,320	71.74	3.69
Male	854,360	699,740	23,995	84.71	3.32
Female	818,265	455,910	20,335	58.20	4.27
Non-Native					
Both	1,630,815	1,136,460	41,835	72.25	3.55
Male	834,390	688,295	22,410	85.18	3.15
Female	796,420	448,160	19,430	58.71	4.16
Native					
Both	41,805	19,190	2,485	51.84	11.46
Male	20,070	11,445	1,585	64.92	12.16
Female	21,845	7,750	905	39.62	10.45
Inuit					
Both	300	185	5	63.33	2.63
Male	170	130	-	79.41	-
Female	135	50	5	40.74	9.09
Status					
Both	20,270	8,060	1,055	44.97	11.57
Male	9,550	4,820	660	57.38	12.04
Female	10,720	3,245	390	33.91	10.73
Non-Status					
Both	5,570	3,150	420	64.09	11.76
Male	2,725	1,815	250	75.78	12.11
Female	2,825	1,335	170	52.90	11.30
Metis					
Both	15,665	7,795	1,000	56.14	11.37
Male	7,525	4,685	665	71.10	12.43
Female	8,140	3,115	330	42.38	9.57

Source: Statistics Canada , 1981 Census

Figure 9

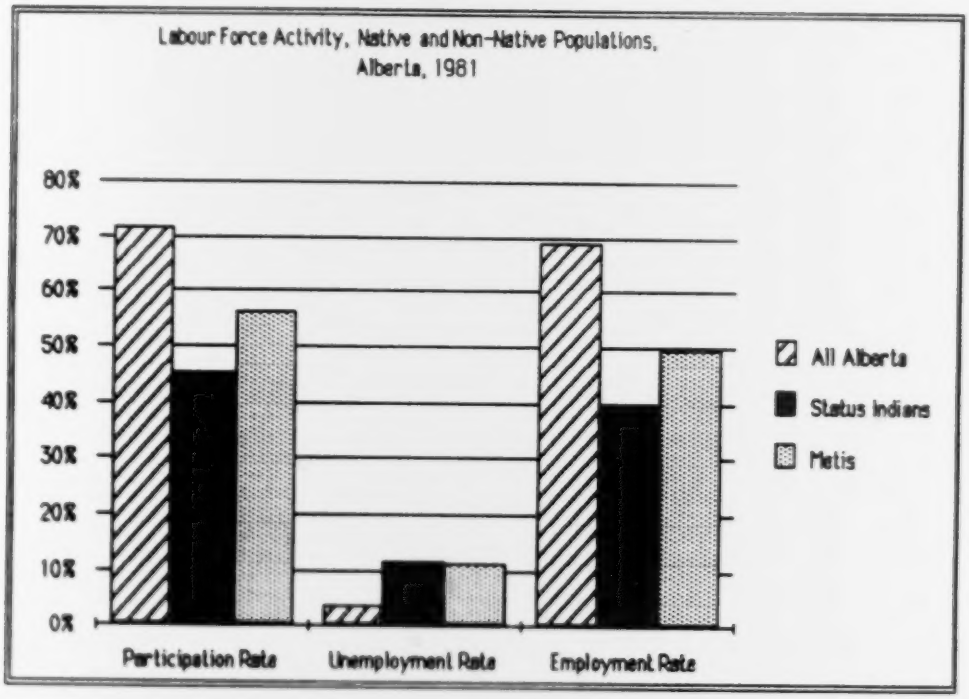

Figure 10

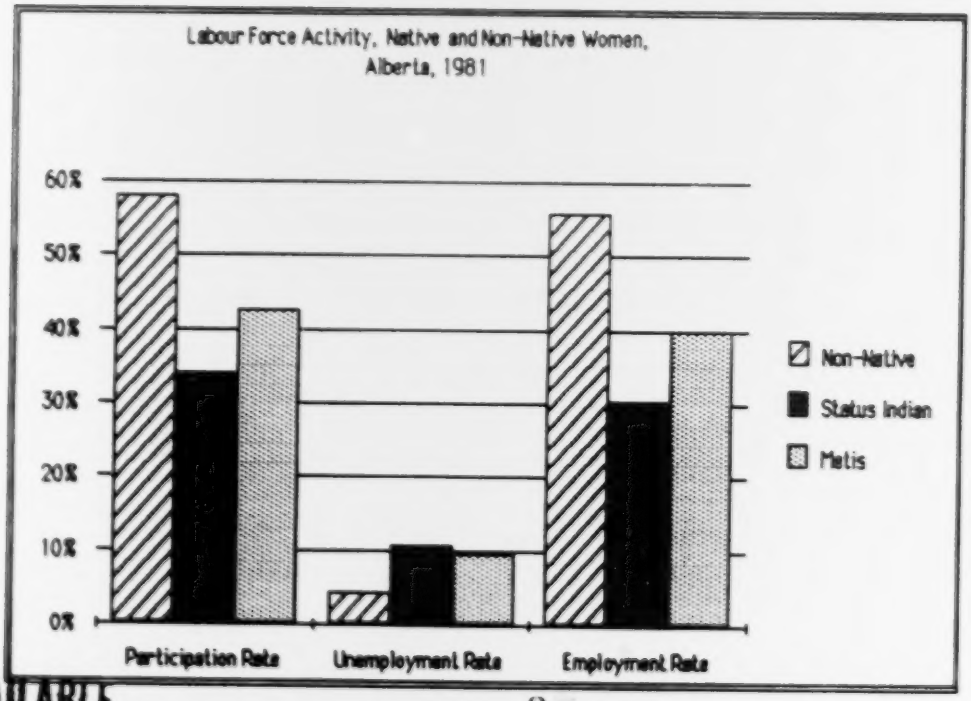

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TABLE 13

NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY IN SELECTED CENSUS DIVISIONS, ALBERTA 1981

	CALGARY		EDMONTON		CD 12 (North-east)		CD 15 (North-west)		CD 3 (South-west)	
	Non-Native	Native	Non-Native	Native	Non-Native	Native	Non Native	Native	Non-Native	Native
Population 15 years and over	455,655	4,700	412,125	7,300	50,940	6,795	78,785	9,235	21,980	2,700
Employed	334,120	3,075	294,040	4,035	34,830	2,510	53,355	3,420	13,865	920
Unemployed	10,955	255	12,145	500	1,525	410	2,135	660	375	145
In Labour Force	345,080	3,3251	306,190	4,540	36,355	2,920	55,470	4,085	14,240	1,060
Not In Labour Force	110,680	1,380	105,935	2,790	14,585	3,875	23,315	5,155	7,740	1,640
Participation Rate	75.7%	70.7%	74.3%	62.2%	71.4%	43.0%	70.4%	44.2%	64.8%	39.3%
Unemployment Rate	3.2%	7.7%	4.0%	11.0%	4.2%	14.0%	3.8%	16.2%	2.6%	13.7%

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census

TABLE 14

OCCUPATIONS OF NATIVE PERSONS AND ALL ALBERTANS
1981

Occupational Group	NATIVE PERSONS	NATIVES AS % OF ALL ALBERTANS	ALL ALBERTANS	NATIVES IN OCCUPATION GROUP AS A % OF ALL NATIVES
Managerial or Administrative and Related	1,125	0.9%	121,420	4.2%
Natural Sciences, Engineering & Mathematics	470	0.8%	56,830	1.7%
Social Sciences and Related Fields	770	4.0%	19,345	2.9%
Religion	30	1.2%	2,580	0.1%
Teaching & Related	505	1.1%	48,015	1.9%
Medicine & Health	500	1.0%	50,595	1.8%
Artistic Literary, Recreational & Related	230	1.5%	15,105	0.8%
Clerical & Related	3,520	1.5%	250,390	13.2%
Sales	1,270	1.4%	120,790	4.8%
Service	5,320	3.4%	156,875	20.4%
Farming Horticulture and Husbandry	1,215	1.5%	79,760	4.6%
Fishing, Trapping and Related	120	41.2%	285	0.5%
Forestry and Logging	965	25.8%	3,745	3.6%
Mining and Quarrying Including Oil and Gas Field	690	3.4%	20,435	2.6%
Processing	615	2.4%	25,665	2.3%
Machining and Related	535	1.9%	27,645	2.0%
Product Fabricating, Assembly and Repairing	1,235	1.9%	65,205	4.6%

(Table 14 continued)

	NATIVE PERSONS	NATIVES AS % OF ALL ALBERTANS	ALL ALBERTANS	NATIVES IN OCCUPATION GROUP AS A % OF ALL NATIVES
Construction Trades	4,180	3.4%	122,755	15.7%
Transport Equipment Operating	1,270	2.3%	54,630	4.8%
Material Handling and Related, not elsewhere classified	820	2.8%	21,680	3.1%
Other Crafts and Equipment Operating	195	1.5%	13,405	0.7%
Occupations Not Elsewhere Classified	955	5.3%	17,860	3.7%
Total who worked in 1980 or early 1981	26,545	2.0%	1,295,020	100%
In Labour Force but did not work at anytime in 1980 or early 1981	350	7.5%	4,695	
Not in Labour Force at anytime in 1980 or early 1981	12,795	5.7%	226,310	
Total Population 15 - 64 years of age	39,690	2.6%	1,526,020	

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Canada Census 1981

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Table 15

OCCUPATIONS OF NATIVE PERSONS AND ALL ALBERTANS IN SELECTED CENSUS DIVISIONS, ALBERTA 1981

	CALGARY			EDMONTON			CD 12 (North-east)			CD 15 (North-west)			CD 3 (South-west)		
	Albertans	Native	%	Albertans	Native	%	Albertans	Native	%	Albertans	Native	%	Albertans	Native	%
Managerial, Technical & Professional	102,090	580	0.5%	81,615	710	0.9%	7,885	450	5.7%	11,480	580	5.0%	3,425	165	4.8%
Clerical & Related	76,380	630	0.8%	68,135	775	1.1%	5,200	235	4.5%	8,020	405	5.0%	1,655	125	7.6%
Sales	35,385	215	0.6%	30,240	225	0.7%	2,405	75	3.1%	4,125	125	3.0%	1,175	20	1.7%
Services	37,555	610	1.6%	35,930	875	2.4%	6,455	510	7.9%	5,985	705	11.8%	1,455	115	8.0%
Fishing, Trapping and Related	5	0	0%	10	0	0%	55	30	54.5%	80	30	37.5%	0	0	0%
Forestry, Logging	140	0	0%	275	20	7.3%	260	100	38.5%	1,185	395	33.3%	60	15	25.0%
Other Primary	5,645	90	1.6%	4,905	85	1.7%	4,420	200	4.5%	10,685	280	2.6%	3,615	195	5.4%
Processing	5,846	55	0.9%	6,660	70	1.1%	815	50	6.1%	1,535	180	11.7%	350	20	5.7%
Machinery, Fabrication Assembly & Repair	24,645	280	1.1%	25,800	385	1.5%	3,185	225	7.1%	4,355	155	3.6%	975	50	5.1%
Construction	33,865	480	1.4%	28,565	775	2.7%	4,795	535	11.2%	5,930	570	9.6%	1,455	205	14.1%
Transportation	13,060	160	1.2%	13,355	260	1.9%	1,665	140	8.4%	3,280	160	4.8%	590	55	8.5%
Other	12,680	210	1.6%	13,805	300	2.1%	1,845	300	16.2%	2,660	425	15.9%	465	60	12.9%
TOTAL:	347,200	3,310	0.9%	309,290	4,475	1.4%	38,985	2,850	7.3%	59,320	4,010	6.7%	15,225	1,020	6.7%

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census

IV. INCOME LEVELS

According to the 1981 Census, the average income for Native private households from all sources was $20,555.00 compared with $28,186.00 for non-Native households. Table 16 and Figure 10 show the distribution of Native and non-Native households by income groups. Forty-four percent of Native households had incomes in 1980 of less than $15,000.00. This compares with 28% of non-Native households. Similarly, 61% of non-Native households had incomes of $20,000.00 or more in 1980 while 42% of Native households recorded incomes of that magnitude.

Table 17 indicates differences in income between urban and rural Natives. As might be expected, rural Natives tended to have lower incomes than did urban Natives. Significantly, 27% of rural Natives reported no income compared with less than 16% among urban dwellers.

Tables 18 and 19 depict more graphically the income disparities between the Native and non-Native populations. Forty-one percent of all Natives 15 years and over were without income or reported government transfer payments as their major source of income. This compares with just over 20% of the total Alberta population in 1981. On the other hand, 56% of the Native population reported employment as their major source of income compared to 73% of the total population. Average income from employment among Native people was $10,928 as opposed to $15,935 for the total population.

Table 16

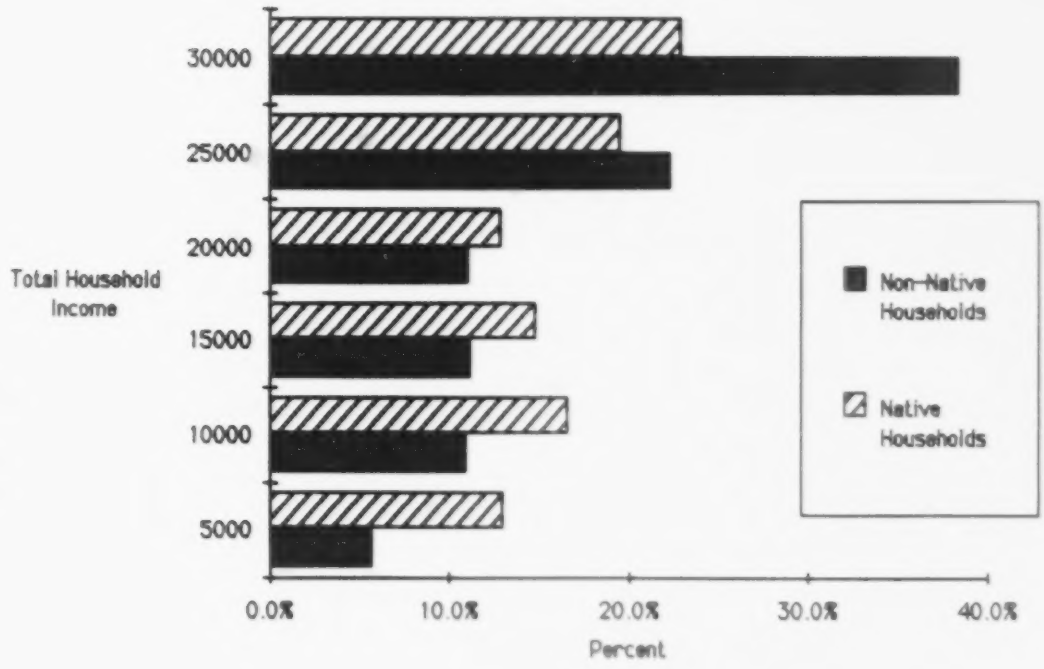
NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE HOUSEHOLD 1980 INCOME, ALBERTA, 1981

HOUSEHOLD INCOME	Total Private Households	%	Non-Native Households	%	Native Private Households	%
Under $2,000	19,815	2.6	18,495	2.5	1,320	6.1
$2,000 - $4,999	25,075	3.3	23,580	3.2	1,495	6.9
$5,000 - $9,999	84,705	11.2	81,120	11.0	3,590	16.7
$10,000 - $14,999	85,970	11.3	82,785	11.2	3,185	14.8
$15,000 - $19,999	84,590	11.2	81,810	11.1	2,780	12.9
$20,000 - $29,999	169,295	22.3	165,070	22.4	4,225	19.6
$30,000 and over	288,785	38.1	283,845	38.5	4,940	22.9
TOTAL PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS	758,235		736,705		21,540	

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census.

Figure 11

Native and Non-Native 1980 Household Income, Alberta, 1981



Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census

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Table 17

INCOME DISTRIBUTION AMONG NATIVE PEOPLE 15 YEARS AND OVER,
SELECTED CENSUS DIVISION, ALBERTA, 1981

INCOME LEVELS	CALGARY		EDMONTON		CD 12 (NORTHEAST)		CD 15 (NORTHWEST)		CD 3 SOUTHWEST)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-$4,999	1285	27.3	2140	29.2	2145	31.6	1995	32.4	820	30.4
$5,000-$9,999	880	18.7	1495	20.4	1375	20.2	1975	21.4	325	12.0
$10,000-$14,999	735	15.6	1075	14.7	640	9.4	810	8.8	225	8.3
$15,000-$19,999	410	8.7	615	8.4	315	4.6	415	4.5	75	2.8
Over $20,000	675	14.3	835	11.4	460	6.8	550	5.9	165	6.1
TOTAL WITH INCOME	3985	84.7	6160	84.0	4935	72.6	6745	73.0	1620	60
WITHOUT INCOME	720	15.3	1170	16.0	1860	27.4	2495	27.0	1080	40
TOTAL	4705	100.0	7330	100.0	6795	100.0	9240	100.0	2700	100.0

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census.

TABLE 18

NATIVE PEOPLE 15 YEARS AND OVER
BY MAJOR SOURCE OF INCOME, ALBERTA, 1981

Major Source of Income	TOTAL POPULATION		NATIVE POPULATION	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Without income	205,625	12%	9,725	23%
Income from employment	1,216,035	73%	23,430	56%
Income from government transfer payments	142,425	8.5%	7,645	18%
Income from other sources	108,540	6.5%	1,010	3%
TOTAL	**1,672,625**	**100%**	**41,800**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada 1981 Census

TABLE 19

AVERAGE INCOME BY MAJOR SOURCE
OF INCOME, ALBERTA, 1981

Major Source of Income	TOTAL POPULATION	NATIVE POPULATION
Income from Employment	$15,935	$10,928
Income from government Transfer payments	$5,023	$4,780

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census

NAME OF PERSON 2

Last name | Given name and initial

23. Where were you born? (Mark according to present boundaries.)

12

IN CANADA *Mark one box only*

01 ☐ Nfld.
02 ☐ P.E.I.
03 ☐ N.S.
04 ☐ N.B.
05 ☐ Que.
06 ☐ Ont.
07 ☐ Man.
08 ☐ Sask.
09 ☐ Alta.
10 ☐ B.C.
11 ☐ Yukon
12 ☐ N.W.T.

OUTSIDE CANADA *Mark one box only*

13 ☐ United Kingdom
14 ☐ Italy
15 ☐ U.S.A.
16 ☐ West Germany
17 ☐ East Germany
18 ☐ Poland

Other (specify)

19 ☐☐☐

24. Of what country are you a citizen?

Mark as many boxes as apply

20 ☐ Canada, by birth ▶ *Go to Question 26*
21 ☐ Canada, by naturalization
22 ☐ Same as country of birth (other than Canada) ▶ *Go to Question 25*
23 ☐ Other

25. In what year did you first immigrate to Canada?

Print year below

If exact year is not known, please enter best estimate.

24 ☐☐☐☐
Year

26. To which ethnic or cultural group did you or your ancestors belong on first coming to this continent?

(See Guide for further information.)

25 ☐ French
26 ☐ English
27 ☐ Irish
28 ☐ Scottish
29 ☐ German
30 ☐ Italian
31 ☐ Ukrainian
32 ☐ Dutch (Netherlands)
33 ☐ Polish
34 ☐ Jewish
35 ☐ Chinese

Native Peoples
37 ☐ Inuit
38 ☐ Status or registered Indian
39 ☐ Non-status Indian
40 ☐ Métis

36 ☐☐ Other (specify)

27. What is your religion?

Mark one box only

41 ☐ Roman Catholic
42 ☐ United Church
43 ☐ Anglican
44 ☐ Presbyterian
45 ☐ Lutheran
46 ☐ Baptist
47 ☐ Greek Orthodox
48 ☐ Jewish
49 ☐ Ukrainian Catholic
50 ☐ Pentecostal
51 ☐ Jehovah's Witnesses
52 ☐ Mennonite
53 ☐ Salvation Army
54 ☐ Islam
55 ☐ No religion

56 ☐☐ Other (specify)

28. What language do you yourself speak at home now?
(If more than one language, which language do you speak most often?)

Mark one box only

57 ☐ English
58 ☐ French
59 ☐ German
60 ☐ Italian
61 ☐ Ukrainian
62 ☐☐ Other (specify)

29. Can you speak English or French well enough to conduct a conversation?

(See Guide for further information.)

Mark one box only

63 ☐ English only
64 ☐ French only
65 ☐ Both English and French
66 ☐ Neither English nor French

30. Were you born before June 3, 1966?

☐ No ▶ END HERE FOR THIS PERSON
☐ Yes ▶ *Continue with Questions 31 to 46*

31. What is the highest grade or year of secondary (high) or elementary school you ever attended?

(See Guide for further information.)

67 ☐ No schooling or kindergarten only
OR
68 ☐ Highest grade or year (1 to 13) of secondary or elementary school

32. How many years of education have you ever completed at university?

69 ☐ None
70 ☐ Less than 1 year (of completed courses)
71 ☐ Number of completed years

33. How many years of schooling have you ever completed at an institution other than a university, secondary (high) or elementary school? Include years of schooling at community colleges, institutes of technology, CEGEPs (general and professional), private trade schools or private business colleges, diploma schools of nursing, etc.

(See Guide for further information.)

72 ☐ None
73 ☐ Less than 1 year (of completed courses)
74 ☐ Number of completed years

34. What degrees, certificates or diplomas have you ever obtained?

(See Guide for further information.)

Mark as many boxes as apply

75 ☐ None
76 ☐ Secondary (high) school graduation certificate
77 ☐ Trades certificate or diploma
78 ☐ Other non-university certificate or diploma (obtained at community college, CEGEP, institute of technology, etc.)
79 ☐ University certificate or diploma below bachelor level
80 ☐ Bachelor's degree(s) (e.g., B.A., B.Sc., B.A.Sc., LL.B.)
81 ☐ University certificate or diploma above bachelor level
82 ☐ Master's degree(s) (e.g., M.A., M.Sc., M.Ed.)
83 ☐ Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry (M.D., D.D.S., D.M.D., D.V.M., O.D.)
84 ☐ Earned doctorate (e.g., Ph.D., D.Sc., D.Ed.)

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